Syllabus

READING THE COLONIAL AND POST COLONIAL CITY - 54302

Last update 23-09-2013

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Cultural Studies

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Louise Bethlehem

Coordinator Email: louise.bethlehem@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed. 11-12:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Louise Bethlehem
Course/Module description:
Living in cities is an integral part of the experience of modernity. This course investigates the cultural and spatial practices that characterize the everyday life of the colonial and post-colonial city. How are power, urbanity and resistance correlated in colonial contexts? How do practices of domination and social engineering impact on cities? How is the post-colonial city haunted by the power relations that accompanied its emergence? How can we chart practices of ruination or read the traces of spectrality at street level? What is the shape of "the city to come" in AbdouMaliq Simone’s phrase? Our readings will proceed through the examination of rich case studies: apartheid-era and present-day Johannesburg, Tel-Aviv-Jaffa (Salame, Manshiya), and present-day Lagos, among others. We will draw on different theoretical traditions, ranging from critical geography (David Harvey, Henri Lefebvre), theories of everyday life (Michel de Certeau), spatial history (Paul Carter), postcolonial urbanity (Arjun Appadurai, Achille Mbembe, AbdouMaliq Simone) and ruination (Anne Laura Stoler) and will investigate different representations of urbanity in literature, photography, popular culture and cinema.

Course/Module aims:
To develop competence in postcolonial theory.
To ally postcolonial theory to urban studies.
To have a basic grasp of spatial history.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Identify spatial dynamics at work in the case-study: Johannesburg.
Generalize beyond the case study to other contexts.
Be able to deploy the theoretical construct of "citiness"

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lesson and seminar

Course/Module Content:
Introduction
Brenda Evans [Demolition]
(Text will be distributed in class)

www.diepsloot.com
http://www.reavaya.org.za/video-gallery  
Life and Death in Diepsloot, NYTimes Magazine  
Coldplay and the Mandela Bridge  
Google Earth: Sandton, Houghton, Saxonwold, Hyde Park, Diepsloot, Orlando

2. Theoretical Preamble
Appadurai, Arjun 2013  
Fanon, Franz 1963 Extract from The Wretched of the Earth (New York: Grove Books)

Bloom, Kevin 2009 Extract from Ways of Staying (Johannesburg: Picador Africa)

Optional readings
Harber, Anton 2011 ¹By the Side of the Road, a Place of Fear,¹ Diepsloot, 1-6 (Johannesburg and Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers).
Martin Murray 2011 ¹Making Space² in City of Extremes: The Spatial Politics of Johannesburg (Jhb: Wits UP)

3.Deep History
William Kentridge 1991 Mine  
http://vimeo.com/16257236  
Mbembe, Achille 2004 ¹The Aesthetics of Superfluity,² Public Culture 16(3): 373-405.

Bosman, Herman Charles 1986 (1944) ¹A Visit to Shanty Town,² in Reef of Time: Johannesburg in Writing, compiled and edited by Digby Ricci, 178-80 (Johannesburg: Ad. Donker).
Sachs, Bernard

4. Migration: Jim Comes to Jo'burg
Paton, Alan

Screening outside of class hours


5. Ruination:
Sophiatown 1

Extracts from the writings of Can Themba, Bloke Modisane, Casey Motsisi, Anthony Sampson on Moodle site.
Casey Motsisi Kid Playboy
Can Themba The Suit

Spatial (In)justic
Sophiatown 2

Stoler, Ann Laura 2008 Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination, Cultural Anthropology 23 (2) 191-219

Lefebvre, Henry The Right to the City, extracts.
Can Themba Requiem for Sophiatown
Anthony Sampson We Won't Move

7.
Swenkas, Savateurs, Loxion Kulcha: Consuming the City
Screening Extracts from Jeppe Ronde  "The Swenkas"
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0457499/


Optional Readings

8. Haunts of Noir

Beukes, Lauren 2010 Zoo City (Johannesburg: Jacana Media).
Bloom, Kevin 2009 "Ways of Leaving," Extract from Ways of Staying (Johannesburg: Picador Africa)


9. Invisible City

Harber, Anton
2011 "The Closer the Blacks Get, the Greener the Whites Get," Diepsloot, 7-20 (Johannesburg and Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers).
Murray, Martin J.


World Charter on the Right to the City http://www.urbanreinventors.net/3/wsf.pdf

Durban Militant Shack Dwellers Movement: Abahlali baseMjondolo http://www.abahlali.org/node/16

10. Heterotopia

Foucault, Michel
Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias.

Screening Extracts Neil Blomkamp 2009 District 9


DOI: 10.1080/17533170903467604

Hotel Yeoville: A Participatory Public Art Project http://www.hotelyeoville.co.za/

11. Jaffa: The architecture of destruction

Helman, Anat
2004 Cleanliness and Squalor in Inter-War Tel Aviv, Urban History 31(1): 72-99.
Golan, Arnon
1998 Jewish Nationalism, European Colonialism and Modernity: The Origins of the
Monterescu, Daniel

12. Salame/Kfar Shalem: Taking Place

From: Noam Leshem 2010 Taking Place: Spatial History in Israel and the Case of Salama / Kefar Shalem, Unpublished Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Julius and Dr. Louise Bethlehem (extracts).
13. Guest lecture

14HEST
The Science of No Fiction Symposium and Screening: Rem Koolhas 2006 Lagos Wide and Close

Required Reading:

Bibliography
Beukes, Lauren 2010 Zoo City (Johannesburg: Jacana Media).
Bloom, Kevin 2009 Extract from Ways of Staying (Johannesburg: Picador Africa)
Foucault, Michel


Harber, Anton 2011 “By the Side of the Road, a Place of Fear,” Diepsloot, 1-6 (Johannesburg and Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers).


Leshem, Noam 2010 Taking Place: Spatial History in Israel and the Case of Salama / Kefar Shalem, Unpublished Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Julius and Dr. Louise Bethlehem (extracts).


Murray, Martin 2011 “Making Space” in City of Extremes: The Spatial Politics of Johannesburg (Jhb: Wits UP)


Stoler, Ann Laura 2008 “Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination,” Cultural Anthropology 23 (2) 191-219

Additional Reading Material:
Students may include additional articles in consultation with the lecturer.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 15 %
Project work 60 %
Assignments 25 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Class participation: 15%.

Interactive Bibliography: 25%. Each student will be required to summarize and provide commentary on one scholarly article of relevance to the course, beyond the compulsory bibliography provided by the lecturer. This exercise attempts to bring each student’s disciplinary background and individual interests into play, and to provide a comprehensive perspective on our topic. Summaries will be posted online in the course forum.
Final assignment: 60%. A 10-12 page essay (3000 – 3500 words) on a topic set in conjunction with Dr. Bethlehem. Topics must be finalized by week 8 of the semester.